River Mud Flats Sparse Vegetation

COMMON NAME	River Mud Flats Sparse Vegetation
SYNONYM	River Mud Flats
PHYSIOGNOMIC CLASS	Sparse Vegetation (VII)
PHYSIOGNOMIC SUBCLASS	Unconsolidated material sparse vegetation (VII.C)
PHYSIOGNOMIC GROUP	Sparsely vegetated soil flats (VII.C.4)
PHYSIOGNOMIC SUBGROUP	Natural/Semi-natural Sparsely vegetated soil flats (VII.C.4.N)
FORMATION	Seasonally / temporarily flooded mud flats (VII.C.4.N.c)
ALLIANCE	NON-TIDAL MUD FLAT SEASONALLY/TEMPORARILY FLOODED SPARSELY VEGETATED ALLIANCE

CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENCE LEVEL 3

USFWS WETLAND SYSTEM Seasonally / temporarily flooded mud flats

CONCEPT SUMMARY

Globally

This river mud flat community type is found throughout the upper and central midwestern region of the United States and adjacent Canada, and probably more widely. It extends south at least as far as the Ozarks and Ouachitas of Arkansas. Stands occur in riverine areas that flood in the spring, but dry out later in the season, exposing wet, muddy sediments on which plant species subsequently grow. Substrate includes silt and clay. The composition and structure of the vegetation are influenced by the flooding regime. Vegetation of this type has not been characterized. Stands in south-central Illinois and east-central Missouri contain the characteristic, and rare, *Boltonia decurrens*.

RANGE

Effigy Mounds National Monument

This community type occurs along the Mississippi and Yellow Rivers.

Globally

The river mudflat community type is found throughout the upper and central midwestern region of the United States and adjacent Canada, and probably more widely. Currently, it ranges from Minnesota and Manitoba east to Michigan and Ontario, and south to Illinois and Indiana. It extends south at least as far as the Ozarks and Ouachitas of Arkansas.

ENVIRONMENTAL DESCRIPTION

Effigy Mounds National Monument

Stands occur in areas along the Mississippi and Yellow Rivers that flood in the spring but are exposed later in the season.

Globally

Stands occur in riverine areas that flood in the spring, but dry out later in the season, exposing wet, muddy sediments on which plant species subsequently grow. Substrate includes silt and clay. The composition and structure of the vegetation is influenced by the flooding regime.

MOST ABUNDANT SPECIES

Effigy Mounds National Monument

Stratum	Species

Globally

Stratum	Species

CHARACTERISTIC SPECIES

Effigy Mounds National Monument

Globally

VEGETATION DESCRIPTION

Effigy Mounds National Monument

Vegetation of this type was not characterized during this project. However, based on observations, species likely to be found on mud flats include *Polygonum* spp. *Cyperu*s spp. *Phalaris arundinacea,* and .seedlings of *Acer saccharum, Salix interior*, and *Populus deltoides.*

Globally

Vegetation of this type has not been characterized. Stands in south-central Illinois and east-central Missouri contain the characteristic, and rare, *Boltonia decurrens* (Bill McClain pers. comm. 1996).

OTHER NOTEWORTHY SPECIES

CONSERVATION RANK G?.

DATABASE CODE CEGL002314

COMMENTS

Effigy Mounds National Monument

This community type was added at the end of the mapping project. Thus, data was not collected during plot sampling.

Globally

REFERENCES

McClain, W. E. Personal communication. Ecologist, Illinois Department of Natural Heritage.

Swain, P. C., and J. B. Kearsley. 2001. Classification of natural communities of Massachusetts. September 2001 draft. Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program, Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife. Westborough, MA.